THE COMMANDING GENERAL
FAR EAST AIR FORCES
APO 925, C/O POSTMASTER
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

TOP SECRET
Per Authority
Commanding General
FEAF APO 925
7 Nov 55
Date Initials

MACARTHUR ARCHIVES
DECLASSIFIED PER JCLtr of 20 Aug 75

4 November 1950

MEMORANDUM TO: Commander-in-Chief
Far East
APO 500

1. Per your request of yesterday that I furnish you with our best estimate of the degree of Chinese Communist participation in the Korean fighting, I submit the following:

a. There has been a definite increase in the air capability of the enemy. Small numbers of enemy aircraft, including one (1) flight of jets, have been observed, and from twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) conventional-type fighters were seen on the Sinuiju Airfield. There is some doubt that the North Koreans have enough qualified pilots for a build-up of the North Korean Air Force as such, and the increased activity is not believed to represent a resurgence of the almost defunct NKAF. More probably it is an effort by elements of the Chinese Communist Air Force or of a pseudo "Volunteer Air Force" operating primarily from Manchuria. Enemy aircraft have been recently sighted flying north across the Yalu River. If enemy aircraft continue to appear in any considerable number, the pilots will be other than North Koreans.

b. The comparatively small number of aircraft employed and their late commitment in the Korean conflict seem to indicate a token effort. Enemy jet pilots have not been aggressive, and it is possible that the appearance of the jets, believed to be MIG-15's, may be Soviet combat-testing of their new types against UN aircraft, on exactly the same basis as we contemplate service-testing six (6) F-84E's.

c. It is estimated that the CCAF has up to three hundred (300) aircraft, including some jets. There are sufficient Manchurian air facilities to accommodate these aircraft. Commitment of a significant portion of these aircraft temporarily, at least, could hinder UN operations in Korea.

d. Despite continued scrupulous efforts to avoid violation of the Manchurian border, UN aircraft well within Korea have been subject to

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accurate anti-aircraft fire from the Manchurian side of the Yalu River. This would seem to indicate something less than a neutral attitude on the part of the Chinese Communist Forces. Since the 22nd of August, there have been eight (8) separate occasions on which UN aircraft under FEAF control have been fired upon from Manchuria.

e. Details of enemy air activity from 1 November to date and recent significant sightings of enemy aircraft on the ground are attached as Tab "A".

f. I am, of course, gravely concerned with the implications of the recent identification in Korea of units of the Chinese Communist Forces. Although we do not attempt to maintain a ground order of battle, we have reviewed the periodic reports of your G-2, together with the air sightings reported by FEAF-controlled aircraft, selected PW interrogations, and our own periodic intelligence summaries. We find that we are in general agreement with your current G-2 estimates and believe there are from fifteen thousand (15,000) to thirty thousand (30,000) CCF troops now in Korea. However, yesterday morning, G-2 Far East Command estimated twelve thousand (12,000) CCF troops were in North Korea. I feel that the occasional wearing of Korean uniforms by Chinese troops, the vague ethnic origin of the border area inhabitants, together with the low level of intelligence of Chinese PW's captured to date, precludes, at this time, any more detailed analysis. Obviously, Chinese are across the border in substantial number as further evidenced by reports just received from Eighth Army.

2. If Russia chooses to do so, we estimate there could be four hundred fifty thousand (450,000) troops in North Korea in less than three (3) days accompanied by from six hundred (600) to one thousand (1,000) airplanes. That would mean World War III, so the likelihood of such action at this time appears not to be in the cards.

3. We are continuing our round-the-clock reconnaissance of the corridors of entry and the coordinated attack on all identified troop concentrations and columns.

GEORGE E. STRATEMEYER
Lieutenant General, U. S. Air Force
Commanding

1 Inclosure
Tab "A"

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